



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TYLER MAN ADMITS TO DEALING METH

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 27-year-old Tyler man has pleaded guilty to federal drug charges in the Eastern District of Texas. **JOEY PAUP** admitted to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamines before United States Magistrate Judge Judith Guthrie today.

"This investigation, dubbed Operation Icebox, stresses the commitment of our federal, state and local law enforcement to work together and rid our communities of those who sell poison to our children," said U.S. Attorney Orwig.

According to information presented in court, an investigation began in October 2004 into the distribution of "ice" methamphetamine in east Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. During this time, the investigation resulted in 22 undercover drug purchases, the purchase and seizure of at least 15 handguns and the seizure of at least four pounds of "ice" methamphetamine and small amounts of marijuana and pharmaceutical drugs, and the seizure of three vehicles and a safe containing approximately \$300,000 cash. A 26-count federal indictment was returned in March charging Paup and 19 co-defendants with federal charges.

Paup faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$1

million at sentencing. Paup has also agreed to forfeit \$25,000 believed to be drug profits. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the United States Marshals Service, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Tyler Police Department, the Smith County Sheriff's Office, and the Henderson Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William Baldwin and Mary Ann Cozby.

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